



DLA OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Melinda L. Perritano Deputy General Counsel, DLA



Melinda Perritano, a member of the Senior Executive Service, joined Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) as the Deputy General Counsel in February 2017.

Prior to joining DLA, Ms. Perritano served as a Senior Executive in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from August 2013 to February 2017. She first served as the Region 13 Regional Counsel for VA facilities located in Oklahoma and North, East, West and Central Texas from August 2013 to May 2015 where she oversaw the provision of legal services across the spectrum of personnel and labor law, fiscal law and appropriations, contracting and procurement, healthcare and medical law, and claims filed by and against the VA. She next served as the Chief Counsel, Information Law Group, at VA Central Office, Washington DC, from October 2014 to February 2017 overseeing the Office of Legislative Counsel; Electronically Stored Information Disclosure and Discovery Program; and information disclosure, security, technology and cyber law, and copyrights and trademarks.

Ms. Perritano served 22 ½ years as an Air Force Judge Advocate retiring as a Colonel in September 2013. Her military assignments included tours as the Air Force JAG Corps Chief Information Officer and Director of Legal Information Systems, Maxwell Air Force Base (AFB), AL; Staff Judge Advocate at McGuire AFB, NJ and Goodfellow AFB, TX; Executive Officer to the Commander, Air Force Legal Services Agency, Bolling AFB, Washington DC; Deputy Chief and Chief of Legal Assistance and Professional Responsibility Division, Pentagon; Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, FE Warren AFB, WY; and Staff Judge Advocate to the 16th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Group and Legal Advisor to Special Operations and Intelligence Activities, Stabilization Force, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Other assignments included Chief of Military Justice and Civil Law, Area Defense Counsel, and Chief of Litigation and Magistrate Court Prosecutor. Her military awards and decorations include: Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with one silver cluster, New Jersey Air National Guard Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with four oak leaf clusters, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with one oak leaf cluster, National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Award with four oak leaf clusters, Air Force Training Ribbon, NATO Medal for Operations in the Former Yugoslavia, and Air Force Legal Services Agency Outstanding Judge Advocate of the Year for 2001.

Ms. Perritano earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from McMurry Methodist University, Juris Doctorate from St. Mary's University School of Law, and a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from U.S. Air War College, Air University. Ms. Perritano is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Her published writings include "Clausewitz on Trial, An Application of Military Strategic Thought to Litigation," Air University, 2009; a version of this article also published in the Air Force JAG Corps Reporter (Vol 37, No. 2); "Chapter 38: Legal Assistance in Operations," Air Force Operations & The Law: A Guide for Air and Space Forces (1st Ed.) 2002; "Chapter 31: Deployment Preparation," Air Force Operations & The Law (1st Ed.) 2002; and, "Get Ready for Tax Time," Airman's Magazine, March 2001 Issue.